

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of irradiating a layer including:

    directing and focussing a radiation beam to a spot on  
    said layer by means of at least one optical element;  
    causing relative movement of the layer relative to said  
    at least one optical element so that, successively, different  
    portions of the layer are irradiated and an interspace between a  
    surface of said at least one optical element nearest to said layer  
    is maintained; and

    maintaining at least a portion of said interspace through  
    which said radiation irradiates said spot on said layer filled with  
    a liquid, the liquid being supplied via a supply conduit and  
    flowing out of an outflow opening;

    characterized in that at least one outflow opening via  
    which the liquid flows out is provided in the form of at least one  
    canal open towards said layer, said canal distributing supplied  
    liquid longitudinally along said canal and dispensing distributed  
    liquid towards said layer.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the canal or  
    canals are positioned such that, seen in a direction perpendicular  
    to said layer, the canals define a total cross-sectional area

having a centre in said portion of said interspace through which the radiation irradiates the spot.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein a smallest thickness of said interspace is maintained at 3-1500  $\mu$ m.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said liquid fills up a recess through which said radiation irradiates said spot.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the recess has a rim portion closest to said layer extending around said radiation irradiating said spot.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4-~~or 5~~, wherein said recess includes a concave portion of said surface of said at least one optical element nearest to said layer.

7. (original) A device for directing radiation to a layer including:

at least one optical element for focussing a beam of radiation originating from said radiation source to a spot on said layer;

a displacement structure for causing relative movement of the layer relative to said at least one optical element so that, successively, different portions of the layer are irradiated and an interspace between said layer and a surface of said at least one optical element nearest to said spot is maintained; and

an outflow opening for supplying liquid to at least a portion of said interspace through which, in operation, said radiation irradiates said spot on said layer, said outflow opening having a total projected cross-sectional passage area in a plane perpendicular to an axis of said radiation beam;

characterized in that the at least one outflow opening is formed by at least one canal open towards said layer, for distributing supplied liquid longitudinally along said canal and dispensing distributed liquid towards said layer.

8. (original) A device according to claim 7, wherein the outflow opening or a plurality of the outflow openings are positioned such that, seen in a direction parallel to said axis of said radiation beam, said total cross-sectional area has a centre in said portion of said gap through which the radiation irradiates the spot.

9. (currently amended) A device according to claim 7-~~or~~<sup>8</sup>, wherein said displacement structure and said recess are positioned and dimensioned for maintaining a smallest thickness of said interspace at 3-1500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

10. (currently amended) A device according to ~~any one of the claims 7-9~~<sup>claim 7</sup>, wherein a recess is provided in a surface facing said spot, an internal surface of said recess bounding at least said portion of said interspace through which said radiation irradiates said spot.

11. (original) A device according to claim 10, wherein said recess has a rim portion closest to said layer extending around said portion of said interspace through which, in operation, said radiation irradiates said spot.

12. (currently amended) A device according to ~~claims 10 or 11~~<sup>claim 10</sup>, wherein said recess includes a concave portion of said surface of said at least one optical element nearest to said spot.